

# Course proves refreshing for environmental workers

## Rules keep changing on hazardous materials

By KIM GILLESPIE  
For the Rocket

"This installation has an excellent environmental compliance record, but we can do even better by improving the scope and documentation of our training," said Dan Seaver, Compliance Division team leader for the Directorate of Environment and Safety.

The directorate recently conducted two Resource Conservation and Recovery Act training courses for Redstone employees who work with hazardous materials or hazardous wastes. "Some employees' jobs require more extensive training, but most of you are here for a refresher, or introductory type of instruction," he told the group.

Seaver noted that Redstone Arsenal has 66 tenant organizations, and estimated that at least half of these tenants generate hazardous waste. The requirement for yearly training (which includes refresher-type courses) can be achieved through various means such as formal classroom, in-house, on-the-job, or any combination of the three. Based on the needs of the tenants, the DES offered half-day, formal classroom training Feb. 25.

"We had a total of 48 attendees come to the two sessions, and we have also scheduled a March 11 morning session at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School for personnel that could not make either of these sessions," Seaver said.

The half-day RCRA training sessions



Photo by Kim Gillespie

**QUIZ TIME— Danny Rinehart, engineering technician with ERC Inc., takes a hazard communications pop quiz during the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act training class.**

recently conducted by the DES emphasized training requirements, safety/hazard communications, the Environmental Performance Assessment System, the Hazardous Material and Waste Management Tracking System, recycling, pollution prevention, and hazardous waste turn-in requirements.

Seaver introduced a new "Hazardous Waste Training Form" to facilitate documentation of all training. "We had an inspection a month ago, and inspectors are concentrating more and more on training and documentation of that training.

Most RCRA violations stem from failure to comply with record keeping," Seaver said.

The training form allows personnel to describe their hazardous waste responsibilities, and record initial and refresher RCRA training course titles, dates and hours of training, and names of instructors. "This form will help you satisfy the training requirement — just attach it to the certificate you receive from this class and keep a copy in your files. We will also keep a record in our files. This training record should satisfy the state inspectors," Seaver said.

The Garrison Safety Office's hazardous communications presentation from John Zuber emphasized the "employees' right to know (what hazards they are dealing with) and how to protect themselves." "It really is the employee's duty to protect himself," he said. Hazardous communications uses colors and numbers to characterize hazards and their severity.

Danny Rinehart, an engineering technician with ERC Inc., was taking the RCRA class as a refresher. "I've had the 40-hour training, but everything is always changing. I would love to get a copy of this hazardous communication video and show it to the others I work with — it was very good," he said.

Jim Taylor, chief of Non-Commissioned Officer professional development, ammunition, OMEMS, scheduled six people from his area to attend the training after learning the half-day course would count toward the required annual training. Taylor and Charles Mayo, from the OMEMS Munitions Training Department, both had several questions regarding hazardous waste turn-in to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. Diane West of the Directorate of Environmental Management addressed these questions and detailed the five steps for hazardous waste turn-in and the required documentation.

Booker Terry, also of the Directorate of Environmental Management, described the Environmental Performance Assessment System, an internal compliance system designed to help tenants through internal inspections and corrections. Terry's presentation included slides of recent environmental compliance deficiencies. Terry challenged training class attendees to identify the problem.

Darla Westrich, of the Hazardous Material and Waste Management System team, presented how the HMWMS automates and tracks tenants' hazardous material and waste. "The system uses inventory barcoding, and allows us to track the materials and waste from cradle to grave, including inventory adjustments," Westrich said.

Other information provided in the training included the Redstone Qualified Recycling Program and the construction/demolition landfill. Ken Hewitt, environmental engineer and the solid waste program manager, noted that cardboard, printer cartridges, and scrap metal were all added to the recycling turn-in program in fiscal 2004.

The instructors for the RCRA training were all in agreement regarding one issue: DES, and the personnel responsible for hazardous materials and wastes will continue to provide the best support and advice available to Redstone tenant organizations. The directorate is also working to make documents and systems like Material Data Safety Sheets, Environmental Performance Assessment System, and Hazardous Material and Waste Management Tracking System available to all applicable tenant organization personnel that need them, according to Craig Northridge, chief of Installation Compliance Division. The DES web site can be viewed at <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/garrison/>. Anyone with questions regarding RCRA training can call Seaver at 876-6123.